

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claim 1 has been amended. Thus, claims 1-9 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner states that the recitation of “the independent sections” is not supported by the specification because, according to the Examiner, “the” refers to the same independent sections transmitted by the first user. Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the meaning of the claimed invention. Now, the claim recites “[a] method for the exchange of personal information of at least two partners.” Subsequently, the claim recites that the information is segmented into several independent sections. So the information for both parties is segmented into several independent sections. Thus, exchanging the independent sections means that information from both partners is exchanged and not the same piece of information transmitted by one partner. (See Published Application, ¶¶ 0007]-[0009]). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 101 REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner states, *inter alia*, that the claims do not positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps. (See 12/31/09 Office Action, p. 3, ll. 6-7). Subsequently, the Examiner states that the phrase “using communication devices” may be interpreted to apply to the partners and not the method. To further clarify the purpose of the claimed invention, claim 1 has been amended to recite, “[a] method for the exchange of personal information of at least two

partners in a step-by-step fashion *performed by communication devices.*” Accordingly, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Baker (U.S. Patent No. 7,401,098) in view of De Vries (U.S. Published App. No. 2002/0184153).

Claim 1 recites, “[a] method for the exchange of personal information in a step-by-step fashion in non-trusted peer-to-peer environments, the method comprising: segmenting the information into several independent sections; and *mutually exchanging the independent sections step by step between the at least two partners using the communication devices.*”

Initially, Applicants would like to point out that this rejection is substantially as that of the 6/24/09 Office Action. In the current Office Action, the Examiner states that the arguments submitted on September 21, 2009 “are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.” (See 12/31/09 Office Action, p. 7). Although the §§ 112 and 101 differ from the previous Office Action, the §103(a) rejection is substantially the same. The only difference between the §103(a) rejection in the 6/24/09 Office Action and the present office action is the addition of the word “mutual” on lines 3 and 14 of page 5 of the Current Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants maintain the same argument in response to this rejection as the previous Office Action.

The Examiner correctly acknowledges that Baker fails to disclose that the information is segmented and that it is mutually exchanged step by step. (See 12/31/09 Office Action, p. 5). In order to cure this deficiency, the Examiner refers to De Vries. However, De Vries teaches that two or more entities (people) have a list of interests that are **compared**. De Vries explains that “the comparison continues for as long as each hashed interest, or each bit or character continues to partially match one or more interests of another entity.” (See De Vries, ¶ [0046]). After the comparison is completed, De

Vries explains that “[f]inally, matched interests, and in one embodiment, close interests are disclosed to each entity via a results module, 265, 270, and 275 which uses a conventional display or output device to indicate exact or close matches.” (See Id.). Although De Vries may compare the lists of interests step by step, as the Examiner states (See 12/31/09 Office Action, p. 5), claim 1 clearly recites “*mutually **exchanging** the independent sections step by step between the at least two partners using the communication devices.*” So, while De Vries teaches comparing step by step, the claimed invention mutually **exchanges** the sections step by step. One of ordinary skill in the art would not equate comparing information with exchanging it.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Baker and De Vries, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest “*mutually exchanging the independent sections step by step between the at least two partners using the communication devices,*” as recited in claim 1 and that claim 1 is allowable. Because claims 2-9 depend on and, therefore, contain all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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